

Americans place well in International Telemark Championships

U.S. Telemark Ski Team members Whitney Thurlow (Crystal Mtn, WA) and Andrea (Welch) Ryan (Boulder, CO) posted high finishes at the first International Telemark Championships April 12 in Hemsedal, Norway. Thurlow finished seventh in a field of 90 men and Ryan finished fourth in a field of 25 women.

Both Thurlow and Ryan finished with very fast times but received copious one-second penalties for "Non-Telemark" turns. There was an obvious difference in skiing styles between Americans and the Norwegians that the Norwegian gate judges were accustomed to watching. The Americans, Japanese and Canadians had more of an upright style with gates in between telemark turns, while the Europeans were lower in more classic style.

"They look like we did four years ago," said four-time U.S. Champion, Thurlow. The windy "Slalom" course also included an eight-meter jump, with a required telemark landing positioning. "It caught me almost by surprise," said Ryan, "It's all leather boots and wool knickers here."

The winners were Vikin Fjord Nat'l series winner Hans Gunnleiksrud of Trondheim, Norway and U.S. "National" Champion Beate Arnesen of Oslo, Norway. Also present were competitors from Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland and France. Following the race was the first Nat'l Telemark committee meeting and the development of the first set of internationally standardized rules.

Women			
Place	Name	Nation	Points
1	Beate Rønning Arnesen	Norway	2.28.31
2	Lisbeth Flaget	Norway	2.28.68
3	Elisabeth öKern	Norway	2.41.30
4	Andrea Ryan	USA	2.44.79
5	Tone Morseth	Norway	2.47.95
6	Maria Näsberg	Sweden	2.48.95
7	Vivi Anne Raggan	Norway	2.51.68
8	Marit Helland	Norway	3.02.44
9	Merete Smith	Norway	3.03.39
10	Ingrid Aksnes	Norway	3.04.36
Men			
Place	Name	Nation	Points
1	Hans Gunnleiksrud	Norway	2.17.56
2	Kalle Fegt	Norway	2.22.75
3	Erik Eikre	Norway	2.22.77
4	Torbjörn Brattli	Norway	2.23.21
5	Vegard Gunnleiksrud	Norway	2.23.48
6	Espen Bengtsson	Norway	2.26.90
7	Whitney Thurlow	USA	2.28.08
8	Ole J. Arnesen	Norway	2.28.19